



Wisconsin 4-H Community Clubs

SAMPLE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR 4-H CLUBS OR GROUPS

April 2012

This sample form may become the constitution and by-laws of the 4-H Club or Group by filling in the blank spaces, amending as necessary and being approved by the membership.

CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name

The name of this 4-H Club or Group shall be _____
4-H Club or Group or Committee.

Article II – Purpose

The purposes of this 4-H Club or Group/Committee are to _____

Article III – Membership

Section 1 A 4-H club member must be in first grade and may continue in the 4-H Club through the next 4-H year following their graduation from high school. First and Second graders are enrolled as Cloverbuds.

Section 2 Open to any youth within grade parameter – regardless of that person's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status. (Add any other pertinent club membership policies.)

Section 3 The following requirements must be met to hold a 4-H charter and be recognized as a 4-H Club or chartered Group/Committee in _____ County, Wisconsin

- Club or Group/Committee name
- Five or more youth from at least three families
- Adult leadership that has been approved through the Youth Protection Program
- Educational plan which meets the purposes of the 4-H program
- Youth involvement in leadership and decision-making
- Meet on a continuing basis
- Have written operating guidelines, bylaws or constitution approved by members to govern the club or group/committee
- Successfully complete the 4-H Annual Charter Renewal Packet that includes critical communication, legal, financial and educational accountability requirements. All blanks must be completed. This is submitted to the county UW-Extension office by annually November 1 or by _____ due date set by the 4-H Youth Development Educator.
- Must comply with all [Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Policies](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm) (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm>); 4-H National Headquarters policies, (http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/4h_polregs.htm); and all federal and state laws.

Article IV – Youth Officers

The officers of this 4-H Club or Group shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, _____
_____. (Add additional offices, term of office, if any age requirements; etc.)

Article V – Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a (choose one: simple or 2/3 majority vote of the total membership at any regular meeting or consensus of those present and voting at any regular meeting. (Optional – provided notice of such amendments shall have been given at a previous meeting))

Article VI – Club or Group/Committee Volunteer Leadership

The 4-H Club or Group/Committee shall be under the direction and guidance of local adult volunteer leader(s). Volunteer leadership is open to all adults regardless of that person's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status. All adult volunteers are required to participate in the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Protection Program prior to becoming a 4-H Volunteer. There shall be such volunteer assistant leaders, volunteer project leaders and volunteer youth leaders as are needed to properly advise and assist in carrying on the various projects and in conducting the club program. Options for leadership are outlined at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/clubs/documents/4HClubLeadershipTeamRoleDescription.pdf>

Article VI – Dissolution Clause

The county 4-H Leaders Association must include a statement of dissolution in its bylaws similar to the following: Upon dissolution of the association, any assets remaining shall be conveyed to a 4-H Youth Development program or the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation as selected by the affirmative vote of the majority of association members entitled to vote.

A 4-H club, group or committee must use the following dissolution clause: Upon dissolution of the 4-H Club, Group/Committee any assets must be turned over to a recognized 4-H club/unit/group, with the approval of the 4-H Leaders Association (as appropriate) and the county 4-H Youth Development Educator.

BY-LAWS

Article I – Election of Officers

- Section 1** (Describe club's nomination process)
- Section 2** The officers shall be elected by ballot at a regular meeting designated for the purpose. (Add month, if known)
- Section 3** All members are eligible to vote.
- Section 4** Ties for election of office are to be broken by _____.
- Section 5** (Describe process for replacing officers who cannot fulfill their terms)

Article II – Duties of Officers

The president shall preside at all club meetings. In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall preside. The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the club. The treasurer shall receive and take care of all money belonging to the club and shall pay it out upon order of the president and shall keep an accurate record of all money received and paid. The club reporter will serve as public relations officer and shall prepare news reports of the club's meeting and activities and send them to the local papers as occasion demands. (Adapt as needed)

Article III – Regular Meetings

The regular meetings of this club or group/committee will be held at _____ on the _____ of each month.

Article IV – Quorum

A majority of the members of the club will constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present when business is transacted. (Optional)

Article V – The Club Year

The 4-H year is continuous should be dated consistent with the county 4-H Leaders Association annual year. The Wisconsin 4-H membership year is defined as October 1 – September 30 for the purpose of definition in Wisconsin 4-H Policies.

Article VI – The Club Fiscal Year

The Wisconsin 4-H fiscal year is defined as July 1 – June 30. The 4-H club financial books must be rectified annually by June 30. The Annual Financial Report is included in the 4-H Charter Renewal Packet. IRS 990 filing must be completed by November 15.

Article VII – Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the club.

Article VIII – Club Reporting

Successfully complete the 4-H Annual Charter Renewal Packet that includes critical communication, legal, financial and educational accountability requirements. All blanks must be completed. This is submitted to the county UW-Extension office by annually November 1 or by _____ due date set by the 4-H Youth Development Educator. The 4-H Charter Renewal Year is November 1 through October 30.

Article IX – Additional Club Policies

Wisconsin 4-H Clubs and Groups/Committees must follow all [Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Policies](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm) (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm>); 4-H National Headquarters policies, (http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/4h_polregs.htm); and all federal and state laws.

(Include any additional continuing club rules, guidelines, expectations or policies not listed above: dues, committees, achievement requirements, record books, project exhibition, fund raising, club trip, etc.)

Approval

Date Approved by Membership _____

Required Signatures

Date: _____

President: _____

Secretary: _____



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